

CAVE CLEANING AND RESTORATION PROJECT

PROGRESS REPORT

TIMPANOGOS CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT FISCAL YEAR 2001

Summary

About 80,000 people/year introduce mud, hair, lint, and algae into the Timpanogos Cave System. The cave was cleaned through hauling out debris with buckets, scrubbing of hard flowstone formations, spraying natural cave water with backpack sprayers, and dabbing delicate formations with paint brushes. A total of 3,110 ft² of the cave was cleaned.

Project Description

About 80,000 people/year introduce mud, hair, lint, and algae into the Timpanogogs Cave System. The accumulation of these foreign materials is a threat to the cave resources. They can change the appearance cave formations, add energy sources allowing exotic species to invade the cave ecosystem, add impurities to the cave water, and can changes the cave's chemistry. This accumulation of foreign threatens the purpose that Timpanogogs Cave System was set aside as a National Monument.

Project Progress

A total of 3,110 ft² of the cave was cleaned. The cave cleaning consisted of removing foreign debris such as mud, lint, hair, and algae. The cave was cleaned through hauling out debris with buckets, scrubbing of hard flowstone formations, spraying natural cave water with backpack sprayers, and dabbing delicate formations with paint brushes. The cave cleaning also included routine cleaning of the tarps and mats used on the cave's catwalks.



Lint being picked off of flowstone



Lint being brushed off



Lint threatening fragile helictites



Lint on the Polar Bear



Trail fill removal - before and after



Cleaning flowstone formations - before and after

Contact

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